November 16, 1956

BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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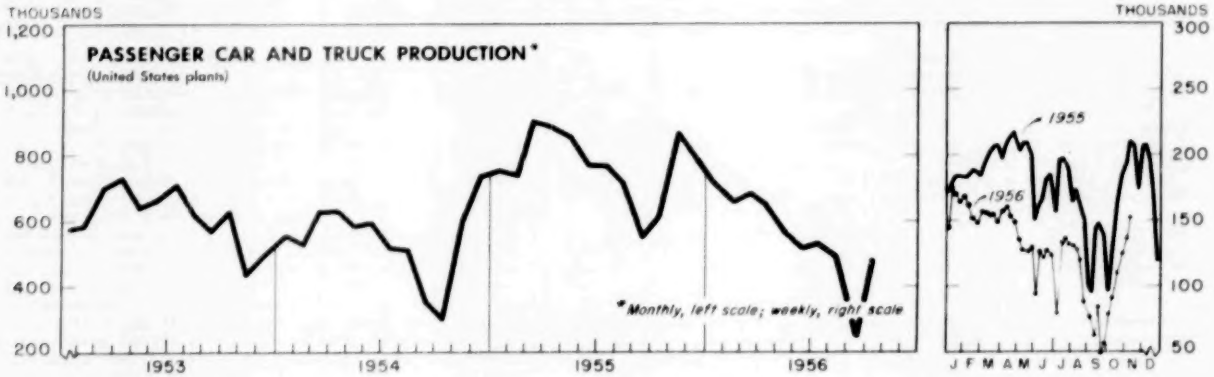
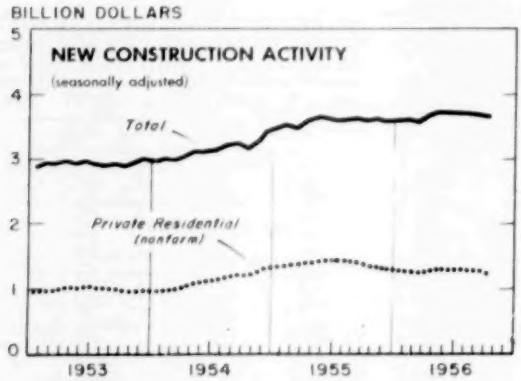
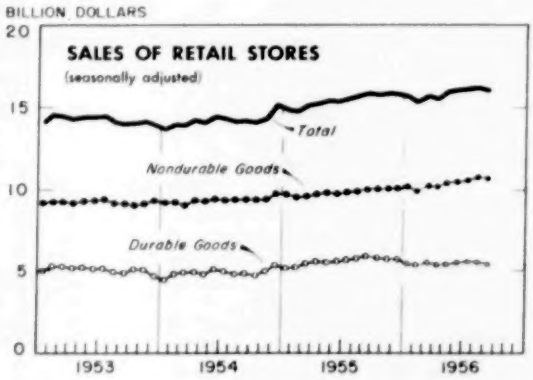
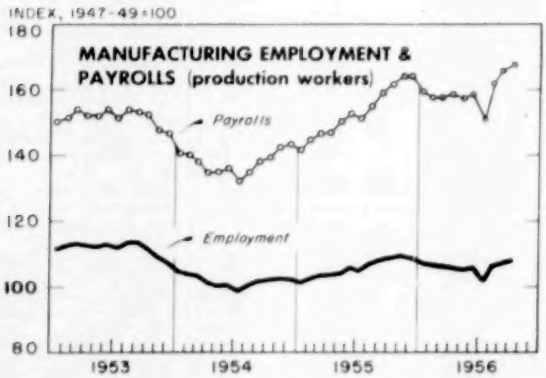
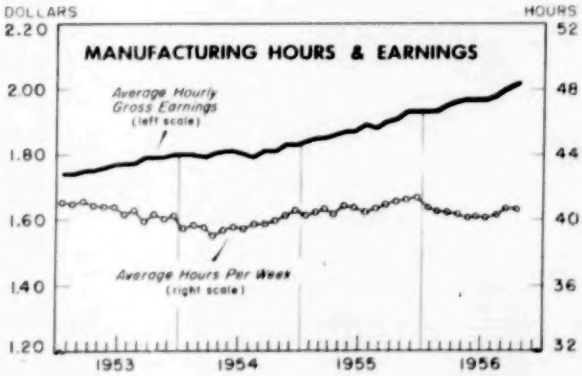
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS











WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

ITEM	1955		1956			
	Nov. 5	Nov. 12	Oct. 20	Oct. 27	Nov. 3	Nov. 10
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*111.6	115.2	115.0	114.9	114.9
Farm products.....do....	.....	*86.8	88.3	88.2	87.9	87.7
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*100.2	103.6	103.1	102.6	102.6
All other.....do....	.....	*119.0	123.1	123.0	123.0	123.0
22 commodities 2/.....do....	88.4	**88.5	90.7	90.1	90.6	**91.2
Department store sales.....do....	128	141	129	128	124	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	875	900	928	934	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	792	813	854	861	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	30,528	30,656	30,953	30,864	30,793	30,963
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/....do....	25,748	25,963	25,810	25,866	25,466	25,762
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	18,898	18,899	18,890	19,137	18,810	19,004
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	477	556	571	596	390	574
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	56,394	55,955	55,623	56,206	56,122	.....
Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do....	21,763	21,731	22,029	22,023	22,054	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	85,623	85,259	86,066	85,584	85,642	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	30,559	30,300	26,392	26,057	25,961	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)...do....	25,303	25,485	29,836	29,692	29,911	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	8,073	8,106	8,834	8,849	8,857	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	237	207	254	267	271	219
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	3.30	3.28	3.81	3.83	3.83	3.87
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Stand.& Poor's) 4/..1935-39=100..	307.0	320.5	337.9	336.0	333.1	343.9
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do....	350.7	368.3	394.6	392.4	388.9	402.3
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,699	1,674	1,757	1,740	1,755	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	10,853	10,878	11,333	11,391	11,487	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	193,561	209,141	110,208	125,967	136,420	153,597
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,777	6,808	6,997	6,998	6,981	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	2,400	2,404	2,495	2,491	2,493	2,463
Percent of capacity 5/.....	#99.4	#99.6	101.4	101.2	101.3	100.1
Freight carloadings, total 6/.....thous. of cars..	804	797	829	817	800	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	403	396	401	394	388	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week beginning November 12, 1956: production, 2,463 thous. short tons; operating rate, 100.4 percent. 6/ Data for 1956 adjusted to revised classification of class I railroads. * Monthly index for October 1955. ** Wednesday price. # Not comparable with 1956 rates which are based on higher capacity.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1955		1956			
	September	October	July	August	September	October
COMMODITY PRICES						
Prices received and paid by farmers:						
Prices received, all farm products.....1910-14=100..	235	229	244	237	236	234
Crops.....do....	229	222	258	236	234	232
Commercial vegetables, fresh market.....do....	224	208	286	230	178	203
Cotton.....do....	285	278	274	263	275	270
Feed grains and hay.....do....	174	167	194	197	196	178
Food grains.....do....	217	220	216	218	222	225
Fruit.....do....	212	189	225	210	233	232
Oil-bearing crops.....do....	225	227	250	249	234	249
Potatoes 1/.....do....	129	127	387	203	161	141
Tobacco.....do....	427	443	453	451	455	453
Livestock and products.....do....	240	235	232	238	238	236
Dairy products.....do....	257	264	253	256	264	272
Meat animals.....do....	249	239	246	259	254	254
Poultry and eggs.....do....	203	195	174	171	172	167
Wool.....do....	234	225	233	232	231	236
Prices paid:						
All commodities and services.....do....	259	261	266	267	266	265
Family living items.....do....	272	274	282	281	279	279
Production items.....do....	246	246	248	250	252	250
All commodities, services, interest, taxes, and wage rates.....do....	279	280	287	288	287	287
Parity ratio.....do....	84	82	85	82	82	82
Retail price:						
All commodities (U.S.Dept.of Commerce index)..1935-39=100..	208.9	208.7	213.6	r212.5	213.1	.....
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
New construction (unadjusted), total 2/.....mil. of dol..	4,148	4,037	r4,231	r4,286	r4,250	4,126
Private, total.....do....	2,879	2,810	r2,865	r2,873	r2,833	2,751
Residential (nonfarm).....do....	1,561	1,509	r1,445	r1,431	r1,405	1,350
New dwelling units.....do....	1,410	1,360	r1,260	r1,250	r1,225	1,175
Additions and alterations.....do....	119	116	142	140	140	134
Nonresidential building, total 3/.....do....	714	721	r787	r788	r788	793
Industrial.....do....	213	219	r270	r276	r276	274
Commercial.....do....	303	306	r300	r293	r288	287

r/ Revised. 1/ Includes sweet potatoes and dry edible beans. 2/ Revised back to January 1956; January-June revisions will appear in the November 1956 monthly Survey of Current Business. 3/ Except farm and public utility.

ITEM	1955		1956			
	September	October	July	August	September	October
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE - Continued						
New construction (unadjusted) 1/ - Continued						
Private - Continued						
Farm construction ..... mil. of dol..	159	132	159	161	148	122
Public utility ..... do....	433	437	462	481	480	474
Public, total ..... do....	1,269	1,227	r1,366	r1,413	r1,417	1,375
Nonresidential building ..... do....	374	350	r380	r389	r379	371
Military facilities ..... do....	136	136	r135	r139	r139	143
Highway ..... do....	533	524	575	600	615	585
New construction (seasonally adjusted), total ..... do....	3,623	3,598	r3,726	r3,714	r3,693	3,661
Private, total ..... do....	2,629	2,594	r2,620	r2,608	r2,587	2,537
Residential (nonfarm) ..... do....	1,422	1,375	r1,302	r1,289	r1,277	1,227
Nonresidential building, total 2/ ..... do....	679	685	r759	r758	r750	752
Farm construction ..... do....	132	132	125	124	123	122
Public utility ..... do....	384	391	424	426	425	423
Public, total ..... do....	994	1,004	r1,106	r1,106	r1,106	1,124
Nonresidential building ..... do....	339	326	r339	r344	r345	347
Construction cost index:						
Department of Commerce composite ..... 1947-49=100..	126.3	126.4	131.3	132.1	132.2	.....
DOMESTIC TRADE						
All retail stores:						
Estimated sales (unadjusted), total 3/ ..... mil. of dol..	15,905	15,824	r15,527	16,335	r15,730	16,321
Durable-goods stores:						
Automotive group ..... do....	3,367	2,964	3,066	3,110	r2,676	2,806
Furniture and appliance group ..... do....	822	909	846	900	r860	954
Nondurable-goods stores:						
Apparel group ..... do....	910	974	768	863	r981	1,000
Drug and proprietary stores ..... do....	425	437	464	475	r465	485
Eating and drinking places ..... do....	1,220	1,204	1,306	1,333	r1,240	1,240
Food group ..... do....	3,766	3,705	3,772	3,988	r3,896	3,851
Gasoline service stations ..... do....	1,049	1,083	1,239	1,253	r1,181	1,201
General-merchandise group ..... do....	1,674	1,807	1,414	1,663	r1,699	1,823
Estimated inventories:						
Unadjusted, total ..... do....	23,300	23,890	23,300	23,540	23,540	.....
Durable-goods stores ..... do....	10,390	10,390	10,650	10,400	10,030	.....
Nondurable-goods stores ..... do....	12,910	13,500	12,650	13,140	13,510	.....
Adjusted, total ..... do....	23,230	23,290	23,800	r23,750	23,430	.....
Durable-goods stores ..... do....	10,720	10,720	10,650	10,470	10,260	.....
Nondurable-goods stores ..... do....	12,510	12,570	13,150	r13,280	13,170	.....
Firms with 11 or more stores, estimated sales:						
Unadjusted ..... do....	2,896	2,949	2,770	3,052	3,009	.....
Adjusted ..... do....	2,875	2,820	3,019	r3,075	3,058	.....
Department store sales, United States total:						
Unadjusted index ..... 1947-49=100..	123	128	101	113	r131	p129
Adjusted index ..... do....	121	122	128	128	r129	p123
Wholesale trade:						
Sales, estimated (unadjusted), total ..... mil. of dol..	10,730	10,500	10,060	r11,120	10,480	.....
Durable-goods establishments ..... do....	3,640	3,590	3,500	3,780	3,560	.....
Nondurable-goods establishments ..... do....	7,090	6,910	6,560	r7,350	6,920	.....
Inventories, estimated (unadjusted), total ..... do....	12,180	12,600	12,630	12,830	13,110	.....
Durable-goods establishments ..... do....	6,000	6,060	6,590	6,530	6,600	.....
Nondurable-goods establishments ..... do....	6,180	6,540	6,040	6,300	6,510	.....
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES						
Labor force (Bureau of the Census):						
Civilian labor force ..... thousands..	66,882	67,292	69,489	68,947	68,069	68,082
Employed ..... do....	64,733	65,161	66,655	66,752	66,071	66,174
Agricultural employment ..... do....	7,875	7,905	7,700	7,265	7,388	7,173
Nonagricultural employment ..... do....	56,858	57,256	58,955	59,487	58,683	59,000
Unemployed ..... do....	2,149	2,131	2,833	2,195	1,998	1,909
Employees in nonagricultural establishments:						
Total, unadjusted (U. S. Department of Labor) ..... do....	50,992	51,125	50,896	r51,881	r52,183	p52,370
Manufacturing ..... do....	16,919	17,006	16,291	r17,034	r17,079	p17,184
Mining ..... do....	784	778	746	r817	r816	p812
Contract construction ..... do....	3,094	3,031	3,270	r3,353	r3,335	p3,282
Transportation and public utilities ..... do....	4,148	4,121	4,148	r4,178	r4,178	p4,171
Wholesale and retail trade ..... do....	10,902	10,990	11,015	r11,047	r11,138	p11,259
Finance, insurance, and real estate ..... do....	2,248	2,241	2,342	r2,355	r2,323	p2,309
Service and miscellaneous ..... do....	5,971	5,915	6,137	6,137	6,104	p6,039
Government ..... do....	6,926	7,043	6,947	r6,960	r7,210	p7,314
Production workers in manufacturing industries:						
Total ..... do....	13,365	13,440	12,514	r13,245	r13,299	p13,387
Durable-goods industries ..... do....	7,612	7,721	7,081	r7,541	r7,567	p7,701
Ordnance and accessories ..... do....	91	89	82	r80	80	p80
Lumber and wood products (except furniture) ..... do....	715	705	688	r700	687	p678
Furniture and fixtures ..... do....	323	327	304	r316	r322	p323
Stone, clay, and glass products ..... do....	482	481	473	r482	r476	p480
Primary metal industries ..... do....	1,118	1,118	743	r1,091	r1,120	p1,128
Fabricated metal products ..... do....	912	r922	825	864	r887	p907
Machinery (except electrical) ..... do....	1,162	1,206	1,254	r1,257	r1,261	p1,267
Electrical machinery ..... do....	845	880	854	r878	r892	p909
Transportation equipment ..... do....	1,324	1,344	1,250	1,235	r1,190	p1,267
Instruments and related products ..... do....	227	230	229	233	r236	p239
Nondurable-goods industries ..... do....	5,753	5,719	5,433	r5,704	r5,732	p5,686
Food and kindred products ..... do....	1,255	1,200	1,158	r1,276	r1,292	p1,227
Tobacco manufactures ..... do....	118	118	77	r103	r110	p108

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ See note 2 for p. 2. 2/ Except farm and public utility. 3/ October 1956 figures are advance estimates.

ITEM	1955		1956			
	September	October	July	August	September	October
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES - Continued						
Production workers in manufacturing industries - Continued						
Nondurable-goods industries - Continued						
Textile-mill products.....thousands..	989	992	922	r950	r950	p954
Apparel and other finished textile products.....do....	1,100	1,108	1,020	r1,082	1,078	p1,090
Paper and allied products.....do....	463	465	461	r469	r471	p471
Printing, publishing, and allied products.....do....	537	542	544	550	r554	p559
Chemicals and allied products.....do....	551	555	544	r549	553	p555
Products of petroleum and coal.....do....	175	173	170	r178	r177	p175
Rubber products.....do....	221	224	208	r211	r217	p218
Leather and leather products.....do....	344	342	330	r338	331	p331
Manufacturing production-worker indexes:						
Employment: Unadjusted.....1947-49=100..	108.1	108.7	101.2	107.1	r107.5	p108.2
Adjusted.....do....	106.2	107.1	102.6	r106.0	r105.5	p106.7
Payrolls, unadjusted.....do....	158.6	161.1	151.0	r161.4	r165.3	p167.7
Hours and earnings:						
Average weekly hours per worker, all manufacturing..hours..	40.9	41.1	r40.1	r40.3	r40.7	p40.6
Durable-goods industries.....do....	41.5	41.7	r40.7	r40.8	r41.4	p41.4
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	40.1	40.3	r39.4	r39.6	39.7	p39.6
Average weekly earnings, all manufacturing.....dollars..	77.71	78.50	r79.00	r79.79	r81.40	p82.01
Durable-goods industries.....do....	84.66	85.07	r84.25	r85.68	r88.18	p89.01
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	68.97	69.32	r71.71	r71.68	72.25	p72.47
Average hourly earnings, all manufacturing.....do....	1.90	1.91	1.97	1.98	2.00	p2.02
Durable-goods industries.....do....	2.04	2.04	2.07	2.10	2.13	p2.15
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	1.72	1.72	1.82	1.81	1.82	p1.83
ELECTRIC POWER						
Electric power, production, total.....mil. of kw.-hr..	53,170	54,566	55,229	58,576	55,649	.....
Electric utilities.....do....	46,326	47,405	49,451	52,194	48,819	.....
Industrial establishments.....do....	6,844	7,161	5,778	6,382	6,830	.....
LUMBER AND MANUFACTURES						
Lumber (National Lumber Manufacturers Association):						
Production, total..... mil. of bd.ft..	3,544	3,432	3,067	3,537	3,147	.....
Softwoods.....do....	2,873	2,729	2,434	2,880	2,489	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	3,471	3,374	2,949	3,262	2,871	.....
Softwoods.....do....	2,759	2,619	2,438	2,707	2,300	.....
Stocks, gross (mill and concentration yards).....do....	8,512	8,569	8,716	8,991	9,247	.....
Softwoods.....do....	5,048	5,158	5,388	5,561	5,730	.....
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Industrial trucks (electric), shipments:						
Hand (motorized).....number..	670	650	682	554	577	.....
Rider type.....do....	441	449	512	374	442	.....
Industrial trucks and tractors (gasoline-powered), shipments.....number..	2,463	2,569	2,725	2,137	2,141	.....
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT						
Motor vehicles, factory sales, total.....number..	559,962	601,256	r522,018	503,276	275,555	.....
Coaches, total.....do....	223	469	307	429	368	.....
Domestic.....do....	198	385	220	397	364	.....
Passenger cars, total.....do....	467,845	505,177	440,980	417,020	203,888	.....
Domestic.....do....	459,073	491,893	429,813	410,164	202,159	.....
Trucks, total.....do....	91,894	95,610	r80,731	85,827	71,299	.....
Domestic.....do....	76,851	81,390	r63,044	68,809	56,852	.....

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary.

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